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SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/45/50.

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I. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The present report on the work and activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) covers the biennium 1988-1989. It is presented to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 39/217 of 18 December 1984 and 40/436 of 17 December 1985, and decision 43/447 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/51 of 26 July 1988.

2. UNDRO is the specialized office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for all disaster-related matters. It must therefore act and be seen to act on behalf of the Secretary-General. According to its founding resolution, UNDRO is also the focal point in the United Nations system for disaster management. Its mandate covers all aspects of disaster relief and disaster mitigation (prevention and preparedness).

3. Several major developments affected the Office as a whole during the biennium. Firstly, UNDRO was heavily involved in the preparatory work for the proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction for the years 1990-2000. That activity will have a significant impact on the future work of UNDRO. The Decade is based on the premise that the human, economic and social consequences of natural hazards can be significantly reduced provided that appropriate prevention and preparedness measures are taken. As a result, disaster mitigation, an important and essential part of the Office's mandate since its inception, will undoubtedly receive new impetus in its activities. Secondly, there was a significant strengthening of the collaborative relationship between UNDRO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), following the 1988 report of the joint UNDP/UNDRO task force to improve co-operation for disaster management. Several important activities were undertaken at the headquarters level. In the field UNDRO further strengthened its relationship with the UNDP resident representative, who also has the mandate to represent UNDRO. Thirdly, as a result of recommendations made by the Management Advisory Service of the United Nations, UNDRO's organizational structure was adjusted to reflect new requirements. Further attention needs to be given in the near future, however, to the ever-growing needs of UNDRO's information system. In that context, the traditional division between natural and man-made disasters has increasingly lost relevance. Generally, and also for UNDRO in particular, the distinction between sudden disasters and slow onset emergencies has been gaining in significance.

4. During 1988-1989 the limited resources of the Office for disaster relief co-ordination were placed under great strain. Owing to the increased vulnerability of communities to natural hazards and other emergencies, the number of disasters grew, as well as the magnitude of their human, economic and social impact. During the biennium, chiefly as a result of the ever-expanding world-wide communications network, public interest in disasters and emergencies, as well as in the management of relief operations also increased significantly. These two factors constituted serious challenges to UNDRO; they were compounded in some cases by the intertwining of natural and man-made disasters. To respond with efficiency and effectiveness to those challenges, UNDRO developed considerably its emergency transport and

warehousing facility at Pisa, Italy; it also mounted large airlift and air-drop operations for emergency relief in Ethiopia and Mozambique; it strengthened its capacity to provide equipment and staffing for emergency relief units to be set up to assist the resident co-ordinators in Angola, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique and Senegal; it relied increasingly on its local project staff in Asia, Latin America and Africa for immediate relief activities; and it organized the third meeting of officials in charge of national emergency relief services. Together with UNDP, UNDRO undertook an evaluation of its activities in selected countries, which showed the sizeable tasks lying ahead for strengthening co-ordination of the international response to disasters.

5. Activities related to disaster preparedness and prevention continued to grow by comparison to the previous biennium. There was growing evidence of the recognition by Governments of the benefits of mitigation activities, which should be integrated into development planning. The number of requests received from developing countries to strengthen their national emergency services is increasing steadily. Based on its experience UNDRO tries to limit discrete activities and stresses the need for projects of longer duration requiring sustained attention at the national or regional level to disaster mitigation issues. This is a laborious process, which weighs heavily on the limited resources of the Office for disaster mitigation. Much more needs to be done, especially in the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and with additional resources.

6. The need for the specialized services of donor Governments, intergovernmental, non-governmental and United Nations organizations to receive immediately reliable and specific information from UNDRO for decision-making in emergencies was felt to be more compelling than ever before. UNDRO's capacity to manage data and its communication facilities had to be further improved during the biennium to allow the Office to fulfil its vital information role. Situation reports, which may reach 400 addressees around the world simultaneously, have been rationalized. UNDRO's information network, the United Nations International Emergency Network, completed its pilot phase at the end of the biennium. UNDRO planned an international conference on disaster telecommunications for early 1990. It also received valuable assistance from the United Nations Amateur Radio Club, especially for disasters in the Caribbean.

7. With regard to administration and finance, 40 per cent of UNDRO established posts (excluding project staff located in the field) are now financed by extrabudgetary funds. It is a source of satisfaction to the Office that it has been able to gain the confidence and the support of an increasing number of donor countries. The continuation of that support will be indispensable, in particular as UNDRO lost 6 of its 37 posts in the regular budget at the end of 1989. During the biennium, UNDRO received extrabudgetary contributions of about $47 million, most of which was pledged for disaster relief assistance. The corresponding figure for the previous biennium was about $22 million. There may be a need to review the amounts for emergency grants.

8. For the biennium 1990-1991, UNDRO intends to use its limited financial and human resources in the most efficient manner possible. It intends to strengthen

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further its relationship with UNDP, in particular in order to ensure that disaster management is adequately covered at the field level in disaster-prone countries. In that connection, it expects to make increasing use of emergency co-ordination units, which are immediately available to the resident co-ordinator, upon request. UNDRO also intends to develop further its information systems, its immediate response capacity for sudden disasters and its disaster mitigation activities. Special care will be given to co-operative relationships with non-governmental organizations, with aid agencies of donor Governments, as well as with United Nations specialized agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) or the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). At headquarters, the existing close working relationship with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and with the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes will be strengthened further. It is unlikely that all the above activities can be met without an increase in the present level of available resources.

II. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE OFFICE AS A WHOLE

9. The biennium 1988-1989 saw a number of developments that are expected to have a significant impact on UNDRO work and performance in the years to come. These relate, inter alia, to co-operation between the Office and UNDP, an adjustment of UNDRO's organizational structure and, most importantly, the proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989. In addition UNDRO undertook new efforts to strengthen its co-operation with non-governmental organizations, scientific groups and universities and to improve its information management and office support systems.

Co-operation with UNDP

10. New efforts to foster the collaborative relationship between UNDRO and UNDP are based on the final report of the joint UNDP/UNDRO task force to improve co-operation for disaster response, mitigation and rehabilitation (A/43/731). During the remainder of the biennium a sustained effort was made to implement key recommendations of that report. Activities were undertaken jointly in a spirit of co-operation and mutual support. In a letter to all resident representatives, the Administrator of UNDP requested field offices to give adequate attention to and participate fully in the important endeavour of joint UNDP/UNDRO activities in disaster management. UNDRO participated actively and made presentations at regional meetings of UNDP resident representatives.

11. As a result of the above initiatives, a number of resident co-ordinators have already established disaster management teams (previously referred to as emergency operations groups), which will play an important role in both disaster response and mitigation. At the headquarters level, work on an UNDRO/UNDP disaster management manual already started and should be ready for field testing in the course of 1990. The development of an ambitious joint training programme in disaster

management, with UNDP field offices as primary targets, also began. Subject to availability of funding, implementation will commence in 1990. During 1989 a joint evaluation of mitigation projects and disaster response in six countries was undertaken and the final report is already available. 1/ The ground was laid for a systematic exchange of staff between UNDRO and UNDP, which will begin in 1990. Continued attention was given to UNDRO briefings of resident representatives and to the training of UNDRO staff in UNDP procedures.

Organizational adjustment of the Office

12. As a result of recommendations made by the Advisory Management Service in February 1989, the organizational structure of the Office was adjusted to reflect new requirements, identified by the Secretary-General in his report of 15 October 1987 (A/42/657) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 42/433 of 11 December 1987. That adjustment regrouped UNDRO activities relating to public information, communications and electronic data-processing support, and registry and reference library functions into the information and disaster data systems management. It relieved the two substantive branches, now renamed the Relief Co-ordination Branch and the Disaster Mitigation Branch, of general office support functions and enabled them to focus on their specific mandates.

13. However, the growing attention of the media and the general public for disaster information are posing new burdens on UNDRO, which is increasingly called upon to provide objective, reliable and immediate information on disasters. This calls for further development of UNDRO information systems, which will have to address the different requirements for information of the general public, the disaster management community and government officials. During the biennium, it also became evident that one specific area of UNDRO expertise within the United Nations system resided in its capacity for quick immediate response to all sorts of sudden emergencies, whether man-made or resulting from natural causes. Increasing use was made of emergency co-ordination units dispatched by UNDRO to the field in a matter of hours or days after the occurrence of an emergency. In many cases, the provision of emergency relief items, through airlifts from the warehouse at Pisa, Italy, completed the Office's immediate response, demonstrating the trends in disaster relief that should orient UNDRO activities and staffing in future years. As described in chapter VI, UNDRO had to expand its project staff in the field to cope with those developments.

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

14. With its added emphasis on disaster mitigation, an essential part of UNDRO's mandate since its inception, the Decade is expected to have a profound effect on the work of the Office. As early as the preparatory phase, UNDRO played a major role, as shown by its important substantive contribution and a number of organizational arrangements. The latter included the hosting of the temporary secretariat of the Decade by UNDRO and the appointment of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Steering Committee of the Decade and of the UNDRO Director as Chairman of the Inter-Agency Working Group.

15. The General Assembly, in its proclamation of the Decade, recognized "the specific responsibilities and functions in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness" entrusted to UNDRO (resolution 44/236, preamble), and requested the Secretary-General "to ensure that adequate means are made available to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator so that it may diligently discharge its specific role and responsibilities in the field of disaster mitigation and response in conformity with its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971" (ibid., annex, para. 5). It provided for the establishment of a Decade secretariat "in close association with" UNDRO. As a result, mitigation activities, following the trend of recent years, will have to be further expanded. UNDRO will provide the secretariat of the Decade with its expertise, assisting, inter alia, in the identification or evaluation of projects for possible inclusion in the programme of the Decade. As appropriate, UNDRO will execute projects and assist in fund-raising. The secretariat will be provided with data base and library services, administrative services, including communications, data processing and registry services, as well as public information support.

Other important activities

16. In response to various General Assembly resolutions, UNDRO undertook efforts to strengthen its co-operation with non-governmental organizations while maintaining its good relations with other organizations of the United Nations system and with donor Governments. For example, in October 1989 UNDRO convened a third meeting of officials in charge of national emergency relief services to explore ways of further strengthening international co-operation in responding to the needs of disaster victims (see para. 33). Early in 1990, UNDRO scheduled a meeting of non-governmental organizations to discuss, among other things, the importance of increasing co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the Office in order to better achieve their common humanitarian objectives, especially in the field of disaster relief and mitigation. In March 1990, UNDRO called an international conference on disaster communications as a forum for international dialogue on the use of new telecommunications technology for disaster mitigation. Representatives of concerned government agencies, international non-governmental organizations working in disaster management and organizations providing new technology and related services participated in the meeting, which also examined the role of amateur radios during emergencies. Reports are available on all three meetings.

17. Close co-operation was pursued with academic institutions, including the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Centre, College of Architecture, Texas A and M University (United States of America). Some of the activities are closely related to the goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. During the biennium, UNDRO co-sponsored or participated actively in a number of international meetings and conferences on disaster relief or disaster mitigation, including the World Bank's Colloquium on Disasters, Sustainability and Development, held at Washington, D.C., in June 1989; the International Wildland Fire Conference, held at Boston in July 1989; the International Conference on Emergency Health Care Development, held at Washington, D.C., in August 1989; and the International Meeting on Catastrophes and Society, held at Madrid in October 1989.

III. DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATION

18. Disasters occasion an immediate outpouring of sympathy and assistance. The total flow of international emergency assistance, both in cash and in kind, as reported to and recorded by the Co-ordinator's Office during the biennium, amounted to almost $1.6 billion, as against $1.42 billion during the preceding biennium.

19. As a result, both donors and recipients of emergency assistance traditionally pay the greatest attention to international disaster relief co-ordination, which represents the most visible part of UNDRO activities. Contributions channelled directly through UNDRO for disaster relief reached $40 million during 1988-1989, as compared to $22 million for the preceding biennium.

20. The disaster situations in which UNDRO was involved in 1988 and 1989 ranged, as usual, from those of short duration to those requiring sustained attention over a longer period of time. They covered man-made as well as natural disasters. Some of them were of a sudden, immediate nature while others were slow-moving. Their total number amounted to 117 and they were addressed in 403 UNDRO information/situation reports. Thus, on average, the Office was called upon to deal with a new emergency situation every week and, within the same period, it issued a minimum of four information/situation reports. In a large number of cases, the UNDRO representative in the field, who is also the UNDP resident representative, could provide the necessary assistance to the Government of the afflicted country without having to resort to staff support from UNDRO. In a number of cases, however, an UNDRO delegate was called upon to assist the resident representative (in Ethiopia, Haiti, Jamaica, Nepal, Nicaragua and other countries). In some cases, UNDRO established emergency co-ordination units to assist the resident co-ordinator (Mauritania, Senegal and, more recently, Liberia).

21. The following examples show the variety of sudden, natural disasters covered by the Office: floods in the Sudan and Bangladesh and Paraguay; Hurricanes Gilbert, Joan and Hugo in the Caribbean and Latin America; Typhoon Ruby in the Philippines; earthquakes in Soviet Armenia, Algeria and Nepal; floods in Zambia, Democratic Yemen and Djibouti; the meningitis epidemic in Ethiopia; floods/landslides in China; floods in Brazil and Tunisia. Other emergency situations, whether slow-onset or man-made, included drought in Ethiopia; returnees in Mauritania and Senegal, displaced persons in Mali and Niger, and civil strife in Angola, Romania, Lebanon and Mozambique. Annex V to the present report contains summaries of UNDRO's major relief operations during the period under review.

22. The co-ordinated approach to disaster situations rested, as applicable, on the four basic UNDRO work elements: independent assessment of damage and needs, joint inter-agency missions, mobilization of disaster response and delivery of concerted relief programmes. The Office's main categories of partners in this effort continued to be the organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations.

23. UNDRO's foremost partner in the field is the UNDP/UNDRO resident representative. Especially in relation to disaster-prone countries, a

supplementary effort was made during the biennium to maintain and strengthen the working relationship with the resident representative. His information provides the basic input for UNDRO information and situation reports, while his role in local consultative mechanisms is crucial. In this respect, it is important to note that, in a number of disaster-prone countries, disaster management teams were constituted under the chairmanship of the resident co-ordinator and composed of all United Nations organizations in the country. UNDRO usually works very closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in all disaster situations; it also has a close relationship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which also play an important role in emergencies. In the Caribbean region, the Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project did much to raise public awareness and preparedness for disasters. A great number of seminars and workshops were organized for very different audiences; they resulted in improvements for contingency arrangements for disasters. The Project also contributed significantly to relief co-ordination in the region.

24. Inter-agency missions have continued to be a most valuable tool for preparing a joint approach towards the assessment of multisectoral and large-scale emergency needs and their presentation to the international donor community. UNDRO organized or participated in nine such missions, mostly in collaboration with the following organizations: UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, the United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). For example, the UNDRO Co-ordinator was designated the Secretary-General's Special Representative when large-scale flooding occurred in Bangladesh in September 1988. UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO and WHO co-operated with UNDRO in the preparation of a comprehensive report on both emergency and rehabilitation needs; these were presented at a special donor meeting organized by UNDRO at United Nations Headquarters in New York in November 1988. UNDRO, together with UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO and UNARDOL and with UNHCR and UNIFIL as observers, formulated recommendations to the Secretary-General for meeting the needs of the populations most affected by the conflict in Lebanon. With WHO and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, an evaluation of international relief assistance was undertaken in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia (January 1989). The evaluation examined the types of response and quantities of aid provided to the victims of the earthquake of December 1988, pointed to a number of lessons to be learned and reviewed current needs and future plans with relief organizations and the authorities.

25. A valuable forum for presenting to the international donor community the emergency appeals of countries in need of assistance is the donor meetings. UNDRO organized or participated in such meetings for Mozambique (Maputo, April 1988), Angola (Geneva, May 1988), Bangladesh (United Nations Headquarters, November 1988), Mozambique (United Nations Headquarters, April 1989) and again Angola (Luanda, September 1989). In addition to these donor meetings, UNDRO's regular information meetings were used for the purpose of offering representatives of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations providing emergency assistance

the opportunity to gather and exchange information on specific disaster situations and on their financing. Cases in point are provided by the meeting on Lebanon (Geneva, July 1988) or Hurricane Hugo (New York, October 1989).

26. The capacity of UNDRO to co-operate in an expeditious manner with its partners in the United Nations system to meet a specific need for emergency assistance immediately and without any administrative delay was exemplified by UNDRO's appealing for and obtaining within 12 hours the funds required to respond to the Government of Malawi's request to WHO for drugs to combat a meningitis outbreak in October 1989. Whenever required, UNDRO delegates continued to leave by the first available flight for disaster-stricken areas, where they reinforced local emergency management through their expertise in assessment, project formulation and contribution recording. Thirty-eight such missions were undertaken during the biennium.

27. Similar flexibility and operational expediency governed UNDRO's air transport operations, whether undertaken from Pisa or in-country, for example in Ethiopia and Mozambique. From the UNDRO depot at Pisa 68 shipments carrying a total relief cargo of 1,334.9 metric tons were dispatched in 1988 and 674.3 metric tons in 1989 to disaster victims in 19 countries in 1988 and 15 countries in 1989. These supplies consisted mostly of shelter materials, survival items, electric generators, emergency rations, medical supplies and water purification and sanitation equipment.

28. During the biennium the UNDRO warehouse at Pisa grew in importance thanks to the addition of relief goods donated by the Government of Japan. The donations of four Governments (Finland, Italy, Japan and Norway) permitted UNDRO to respond more frequently to a disaster-stricken country's appeal for basic relief supplies, especially in situations where an urgent need could not be met as quickly by another United Nations agency, an intergovernmental or governmental service, or a non-governmental organization. Emergency equipment from the Soviet Union will also be warehoused at Pisa in the near future. Thus the UNDRO warehouse fills precise, limited gaps in the provision of assistance in the very first phase of various types of emergencies. The call upon this service increased to such a degree that the extension of UNDRO's warehousing capacity had to be envisaged and the Office received an offer from the Government of Italy for the construction of a second facility at Rome.

29. In addition to airborne transport of relief supplies from its warehouse at Pisa, UNDRO organized a large-scale airlift operation in Ethiopia, which lasted more than a year, employed up to 40 aircraft at extremely competitive cost and was financed by 15 Governments and organizations. Some 115,000 metric tons of emergency food and other relief items were transported to the regions of Tigre and Eritrea (see annex V). This airlift also helped UNHCR in providing assistance to large numbers of Somali and Sudanese refugees.

30. Throughout the biennium and whenever requested by donors to do so, the Office continued to handle extrabudgetary cash contributions entrusted to it, to purchase (usually locally) emergency relief supplies or services, to establish or reinforce

disaster-management-related structures in the recipient country and to organize transport and distribution of relief goods to their beneficiaries. During the biennium, such contributions reached their highest level ever, rising to a total of $38 million, mostly for UNDRO programmes in Ethiopia, Lebanon and Mozambique. UNDRO programme support costs are charged to those contributions at a reduced rate of only 3 per cent.

31. For each year of the biennium UNDRO had at its disposal $360,000 to provide small but immediate emergency cash grants in cases of sudden disasters. It is important to envisage an increase in the total amount allotted in the budget for such activities. UNDRO could meet only 36 of the 47 requests made by Governments of afflicted countries. As a matter of principle, they were granted only to countries whose Governments asked UNDRO to launch an appeal for international emergency assistance (see annex IV). As in the past, grants were in most cases channelled through the UNDP/UNDRO resident representatives to enable them, in the very first days of the emergency, to satisfy directly some of the most urgent needs of clearly defined groups of beneficiaries or to facilitate the development of concerted relief programmes by using them as "seed money".

32. Such a course of action is best illustrated by the concerted relief programme undertaken following the earthquake that occurred in eastern Nepal on 21 August 1988. The very day the Government requested international assistance, the Resident Representative used an UNDRO emergency grant to set in motion a search-and-rescue operation by air and asked the Co-ordinator to launch an international appeal for contributions in cash only. The appeal was fully subscribed in a matter of days. Funds exceeding $1 million were used by UNDRO to finance helicopter services to evacuate many wounded from inaccessible mountainous areas and to purchase plastic sheeting and rice. The Resident Representative's highly important co-ordinating and catalytic functions, together with the assessment and monitoring support services provided by local United Nations and non-governmental organization representatives, unquestionably reinforced the Government's successful handling of the emergency.

33. The third meeting of heads of national emergency relief services was organized in October 1989. Some 18 governmental emergency services from donor countries as well as the European Community (EEC) and appropriate United Nations organizations participated in a biennial review of UNDRO's modus operandi and ways and means of further improving humanitarian relief operations. They, in particular, examined the findings included in the UNDRO case report on international relief assistance after the earthquake of 7 December 1988 in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia. The following specific recommendations are highlighted as they call for particular action to be taken by UNDRO, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Importance of unified appeals and concerted relief programmes

In view of the large number of appeals launched by the United Nations and other organizations, the importance of unified appeals and concerted relief programmes, as laid down in General Assembly resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981, was reiterated.

(b) Co-operation with non-governmental organizations

Given the important role of indigenous as well as foreign non-governmental organizations in disaster areas, UNDRO should be provided with governmental advice on their operational skills in order to facilitate its co-ordinating task. At headquarters level, UNDRO co-operation with non-governmental organizations should be pursued (see para. 25).

(c) Improvement of communications facilities at UNDRO headquarters and of communications equipment for UNDRO field teams

In response to this recommendation an international conference on telecommunications for disaster management was held in March 1990 at UNDRO headquarters (see para. 25). Studies were undertaken to improve UNDRO's own communication facilities. Their implementation will depend on the availability of funding.

(d) Close monitoring of emergency needs for dissemination of the latest data through UNDRO situation reports

The meeting confirmed that donor relief services continued to consider UNDRO's situation reports as an essential source of information on relief needs and response. The Office was encouraged to strengthen further both the contents and timely transmission of the reports by preparing a publication on criteria for the assessment of damage and relief needs, by exploring new and more economical ways of transmission and by including clearer indications of when notified needs have been fully met or, conversely, have increased.

(e) After-the-event evaluations of the impact of emergency assistance

The various evaluations of disaster relief operations and mitigation projects that were undertaken during the biennium were taken note of, including those under way with the assistance of UNDP. Provided they were undertaken as quickly as possible after the event, the need for their continuation was underlined as their results constituted valuable inputs for future operations.

IV. DISASTER MITIGATION (PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS)

34. Disaster mitigation comprises all those activities taken prior to the occurrence of a potential disaster in order to reduce its impact. Activities fall into two broad categories. Firstly, there are those of a technical and preventive nature, involving the scientific and engineering aspects of disaster reduction and related legislation. This includes the estimation of the frequency and magnitude of future hazards, the delineation of high-risk areas, the identification of restrictions that should be placed on land use and urban development in such areas and the reinforcement of structures to resist the largest hazards that can reasonably be expected. The second category is that of logistical planning or preparedness activities, involving the preparation of plans for alert and

evacuation in the face of imminent danger, as well as for post-disaster rescue and the provision of food and shelter for the victims. Related aspects of operational planning include establishing the criteria for taking the decisions to implement the various elements of the plan, the training of local officials and education of the population in high-risk areas.

35. The role of UNDRO is to help identify the most probable future disaster scenarios, to advise on the actions necessary to establish the precise nature of hazards and risks, to assist in identifying the national authorities capable of contributing to disaster mitigation activities, to determine those activities for which external assistance is required, to establish a suitable work programme, to prepare the corresponding project proposal, submit requests for funding assistance and assist with project implementation. Disaster mitigation techniques have in recent years become better defined, more comprehensive and therefore more widely applicable. UNDRO has contributed to the development and refinement of those techniques as well as to increasing awareness of them by preparing manuals, organizing training seminars and through technical co-operation projects, both regional and national.

36. Comprehensive disaster mitigation programmes, as recommended by UNDRO and implemented with UNDRO assistance in a number of countries, involve a five-step sequence of activities, namely:

(a) To determine the hazards (what types and magnitudes of disaster-causing natural phenomena can be expected, where and at what intervals in the future);

(b) To assess the vulnerability of people and property to such hazards;

(c) To identify and implement the most cost-effective measures for reducing vulnerability;

(d) To develop logistical plans for responding to imminent threats of disaster and providing post-disaster assistance;

(e) To ensure that those plans are properly understood by local officials and the population in general in the most disaster-prone areas.

The cost of such activities is very modest in relation to the losses that occur in disasters and the systematic application of disaster mitigation measures can typically reduce life loss by 50 per cent and property losses by 10-20 per cent. UNDRO's concern is to ensure that developing countries are fully aware of disaster risks and take advantage of the most effective techniques for disaster mitigation.

37. Since the biennium 1988-1989 coincided with the preparation phase for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the period was one of considerably increased world-wide awareness of the benefits of disaster preparedness and prevention. The number and magnitude of requests for assistance addressed to UNDRO increased accordingly. It has long been recognized by UNDRO that in order to develop the Office to its full capacity for disaster mitigation a

long-term commitment is required. Particular attention is also being paid to the numerous linkages between disaster mitigation and the overall development process. This has found its expression in the co-operation developed with UNDP, which has strongly supported this concept (see chap. II). As a matter of policy, UNDRO has therefore encouraged long-duration national engagements and these have been achieved through five regional and numerous national projects, in which a sequence of technical co-operation activities was maintained throughout the greater part of the biennium. A review of the main activities during the biennium is provided in paragraphs 39 and 40 and annex VI.

38. UNDRO intends to develop further its mitigation activities along the lines described above. Particular attention will be devoted to the strengthening of existing relations with the disaster management community and the United Nations bodies such as WMO, UNESCO or WHO/PAHO in order to maintain a truly multisectoral approach to disaster mitigation.

Regional projects

39. Regional projects have included the following:

(a) The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre. The Centre was established in 1986 at the Asian Institute of Technology at Bangkok, in response to requests from Asian-Pacific countries for international assistance in strengthening their disaster mitigation activities. It offers regular training courses and workshops in general disaster management, cyclone preparedness, seismic disaster mitigation and information and computer application services covering the whole spectrum of disaster reduction and management. Its courses are in strong demand and UNDRO continued to encourage and sponsor participants from a wide range of Asian and Pacific countries. Four courses on disaster management, each of six weeks' duration, and one on cyclone warning response were given during the biennium. A total of 240 participants from 22 countries attended. In addition, support to national programmes was provided to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

(b) The Caribbean. The UNDRO Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project is based in Antigua and serves 29 participating States and territories. It is implemented in collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Project has strengthened its ties with institutions active in emergency and disaster-related areas. Visits were made to most of the participating States/territories and regular contact was maintained with all the national disaster co-ordinators. Technical assistance provided by the Project to a number of States facilitated improvements in the national disaster plans and led to the allocation of increased resources to the national emergency system. In Trinidad, the National Emergency Management Agency became functional and in the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda the territorial Governments established full-time national disaster co-ordinators. The management of the emergency caused by Hurricane Hugo (September 1989) benefited from this earlier strengthening of the local emergency system. The Project continued its collaboration with other

agencies executing complementary programmes relating to disaster and emergency management, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Caribbean Council of Engineering Organizations and the University of the West Indies. Furthermore, close liaison was maintained with the Caribbean Community Secretariat, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and with UNDP and other United Nations bodies.

(c) Latin America. A project for disaster mitigation in Ecuador and neighbouring countries addressed the subject of hazard mapping, risk assessment, emergency planning and public information, including simulation exercises for volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, and also earthquake hazard assessment and the upgrading of emergency telecommunications. Workshops were held to demonstrate new methods for volcanic hazard mapping, for the identification of active earthquake source zones, the evaluation of mudflow hazards and the preparation of tsunami hazard maps and emergency plans. Each of these workshops was attended by participants from numerous other Andean and Central American countries confronted by these kinds of disaster. The workshops provided a good opportunity for exchange of experiences and updating of disaster mitigation techniques.

(d) The Mediterranean. The co-operative project for seismic risk reduction in the Mediterranean region is intended to address the problems of earthquake disaster management from a user's point of view. The project contains three broad themes: earthquake hazard assessment, vulnerability analysis and reducing losses caused by earthquakes in the future. The project emphasizes land use planning, basic engineering issues, and disaster preparedness. Sixteen countries of the Mediterranean Basin are participating actively in the project, which is expected to last two years. The first expert group meeting was held to review project objectives and strategy.

(e) The South Pacific. Initial funding was received and plans made to carry out in-country need identification surveys in order to develop a work programme for disaster mitigation in the south-west Pacific countries, with special attention to cyclones.

(f) Africa. Within the framework of an UNDRO/UNDP disaster mitigation programme for the Southern African region, a workshop was organized in Zimbabwe from 20 to 25 February 1989. Officials from various ministries, with the assistance of UNDRO, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, formulated recommendations for the establishment of a national disaster preparedness and relief committee, considered the drafting of a national plan, and identified training needs at various levels. Similar seminars were held in Malawi in October 1988 and the United Republic of Tanzania in April 1989. UNDRO ensured the follow-up to the meetings by sending consultants to assist in the implementation of their recommendations.

As part of a programme of co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), UNDRO provided material for incorporation in a set of guidelines for a plan of action to mitigate disasters in Africa, including extensive comments on the document and participation in an inter-agency meeting in October 1989 at which the plan was discussed.

National projects

40. In addition to the regional activities listed above UNDRO co-ordinated numerous single-country activities. Details of UNDRO projects undertaken during the biennium are given in annex VI for the following 15 countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Haiti, Indonesia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zimbabwe. The programme for Colombia provides an illustration of the type of activities promoted and supported by UNDRO. In that country, a broad-spectrum disaster mitigation programme was initiated in 1988 and has included an integrated sequence of pilot activities in different high-risk locations, one each for earthquakes, eruptions, floods, landslides, technological hazards and tsunamis. The programme is managed by the National Disaster Office and activities are designed to stimulate the fullest possible participation of local technical and administrative services. The main emphasis was put on hazard evaluation and mapping, design of monitoring and alert systems, study of vulnerability of buildings, industrial plans and public utilities, revision of emergency plans and training activities. UNDRO assisted national authorities in coping with an eruption of Galeras Volcano.

Seminars

41. During the biennium, UNDRO organized or contributed to various single or multi-country disaster mitigation seminars and training activities.

42. In addition to the workshops and seminars for the Latin American and African regions already described in paragraphs 6 (c) and 6 (f), two international training seminars have been held in the Soviet Union, the first on engineering aspects of earthquake mitigation (Dushanbe, October 1988), and the second on lessons learned from management of recent earthquakes with consequential landslides and mudflows (Moscow, October 1989). Each seminar was organized for 25 participants from disaster-prone countries. Presentations were made by 11 international experts and by 10 lecturers from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the Civil Defence and the State Committee on Construction.

V. DISASTER INFORMATION

43. The overall objective of UNDRO activities in disaster information is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster management world wide by identifying, acquiring and disseminating information that is useful to disaster managers, to policy and decision makers and, to a limited extent, to the general public. With respect to relief co-ordination, this means ensuring that the available information on a disaster situation, on the extent of damage and on the related response can be analysed, collated and exchanged internationally and sufficiently rapidly to reduce to a minimum waste and duplication and encourage adequate response to unmet needs. With respect to disaster mitigation, the availability of information on hazards world wide, respective national levels of disaster vulnerabilities and risk, and capacities to plan, prepare for and respond to disasters is essential for effective programmes of technical co-operation.

Information on disaster management policies, techniques, practices and technical support tools is the basis for the fruitful transfer of knowledge and technology. The importance of disaster information was highlighted during the preparations for the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction.

44. During the period under review, emphasis was put on overall improvement of UNDRO's electronic management of information at a time when increases in staff were not possible and UNDRO was called on to expand its activity. Sustained attention was given to equipment procurement and installation, system development and staff training aimed at extending the Office's capacity to benefit from computer-based facilities in routine functions (e.g. correspondence, reports, telex and electronic mail communications, data management, information networking, desktop publishing, etc.). Financial and human constraints have imposed a gradual implementation of the system. However, the obviously increased productivity, both in quantity and quality, demonstrates that progress has been made and this encourages further efforts in this respect.

45. UNDRO's multiple distribution telex system was used regularly to disseminate disaster-related information and situation reports world-wide as shown in table 1. In order to produce the necessary information, UNDRO works in close association with other United Nations agencies; the role of the UNDP resident representative at the field level is of primary importance. During the biennium there was a 100 per cent increase in the number of correspondents receiving the UNDRO situation reports, which are now simultaneously and electronically dispatched at the time they are issued to over 400 disaster managers from Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations all around the world, as well as to the press. UNDRO is looking forward to further enhancing its capacity to disseminate information "at the earliest", a time concept that has tremendously changed in recent years, with the widespread use of new technologies such as facsimile or electronic mail. A study has been initiated to determine the most economical and practical means of transmission.

Table 1. Statistics on telecommunications

	Biennium 1986-1987	Biennium 1988-1989	1988	1989
Number of telex messages transmitted	72 378	96 251	48 529	47 722
Costs (United States dollars)	312 166	304 608	189 227	115 381
Transmission time (hours)	9 625	12 585	8 310	4 275
Costs per hour (United States dollars)	32.43	24.20	22.77	26.99

46. UNDRO's electronic information network, previously called UNDRONET, was renamed in 1988 the United Nations International Emergency Network (UNIENET) in order to reflect the collaborative effort in the United Nations system. This collaborative effort is characterized by contributions and exchange of information between its members, who are represented on a UNIENET advisory board, which meets periodically at Geneva to ensure that the system attains its objectives. UNIENET serves to increase the capacity of organizations and individuals globally concerned with disaster management, to obtain an exchange of information of common interest, rapidly, reliably and economically. In addition it should stimulate the development of relationships between individuals and organizations involved in disaster management and facilitate co-ordination in areas of common activities. The potential of UNIENET is particularly relevant to efforts at fostering international co-operation on exchange in disaster mitigation as foreseen in the strategies for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

47. During the reporting period, UNIENET was operated as a pilot project. Some 150 users subscribed to the system, representing 10 United Nations organizations and 60 other entities (governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research centres, private voluntary agencies and individuals) in 30 countries. At the end of the pilot development phase of this new technology-based information tool, most users were found to be from Europe and North America. Asia, Africa, Central and South America are also represented, however, and efforts will be pursued to ensure a broader geographical coverage by offering special assistance to developing countries.

48. The UNDRO reference library is a fully computerized and constantly growing bibliographic data base comprising, at the end of 1989, a collection of 3,500 specialized publications. It continued to provide services to governmental and non-governmental disaster management organizations and inside and outside researchers and specialists; a bibliographic list of the library's new acquisitions was made available regularly in hard copy as well as through UNIENET. During the biennium the reference library received 140 largely specialized newsletters, journals, bulletins, magazines and reviews on a regular basis, and these are circulated to UNDRO staff members and experts in accordance with their fields of interest and needs.

49. The demand for UNDRO publications has continued steadily even though several disaster mitigation volumes are now offered as sales publications. They are being used extensively in specialized training courses and seminars for disaster managers, notably in Asia (through the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre of the Asian Institute of Technology) and in Latin America and the Caribbean. Several reports on specific disaster situations were also widely disseminated, notably on the 1988 earthquake in Armenia and the 1989 Hurricane Hugo in the Caribbean. The production of the bimonthly UNDRO News was greatly enhanced with the acquisition of cost-effective desktop publishing facilities. Within the framework of the close association between UNDRO and the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, UNDRO News devoted a special section to news of the Decade, starting in September 1989.

50. In the course of 1989, the second edition of the bilingual (English and French) directory of training institutions for disaster management was published in two volumes. Volume I includes more than a hundred national, regional and international institutions, while volume II provides information on training activities in the field of disaster management organized in the framework of the United Nations system, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and some intergovernmental bodies. The list of national officials responsible for the management of disasters, emergency plans and disaster legislations, compiled for the first time in 1987, was updated and published as a directory in 1988 and 1989. The directory of non-governmental organizations active in the field of disaster relief and rehabilitation in Mozambique compiled in 1987 was revised and published in 1988 and 1989.

51. In 1989 work was completed on two important substantive volumes, entitled Mitigating Natural Disasters and The Mitigation of Mudflows. These will be published in 1990 and will be added to the existing list of technical publications of UNDRO.

52. Mention must also be made of the increasing use by UNDRO during disasters of the services of the Amateur Radio Club of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council. Essential information was provided by the Radio Club on the emergency situation following Hurricanes Gilbert, Joan and Hugo, which struck the Caribbean and Central America. The role of amateur radios during disasters was reviewed at the recent International Conference on Disaster Communications, organized by UNDRO in March 1990.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

53. The organizational structure of UNDRO was adjusted in accordance with the recommendations made by the Management Advisory Service in February 1989. The changes will be reflected in a Secretary-General's Bulletin, which is being finalized.

54. The staffing table of UNDRO for 1988-1989 appears in annex II to the present report. At the beginning of 1988, a total of 36 established posts were financed from the regular budget and 20 established posts were financed from the UNDRO trust fund for the strengthening of the Office and from programme support funds. Pursuant to resolution 42/213 of 21 December 1987, by which the General Assembly decided upon the reduction of posts funded from the United Nations regular budget, the regular budget staffing table of UNDRO was reduced from 36 to 31 as at 1 January 1990. In addition one non-recurrent temporary P-5 post in the regular budget was not extended beyond 31 December 1989. Owing to the need to make appropriate administrative arrangements, these cuts already had an effect during the biennium 1988-1989.

55. To respond with efficiency to requests from Member States for specific assistance, and to discharge its mandated responsibilities, UNDRO made great use during the biennium of flexible arrangements that enabled it to have, in addition to established posts, both project staff in the field, as well as consultants on

specific missions. During the biennium, UNDRO had 9 Professional and 40 General Service project staff in Antigua (where the Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project is located), Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy (Pisa warehouse), Lebanon, Mozambique and Nepal. UNDRO also contracted 88 consultancies for specific missions either in the relief co-ordination field or in the disaster mitigation area. In addition, more than 30 experts were recruited at the field level. It should also be noted that UNDRO has stand-by arrangements with a number of Governments, including those of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, whereby these countries provide in a matter of hours after a disaster the necessary expert for a field mission of UNDRO, should such a mission be required.

56. As a result of the flexible policy described in paragraph 55, UNDRO was able to respond to the most pressing needs of Member States. However, the growing disproportion between its headquarters staff and its temporary staff in the field is a cause for concern, since backstopping of projects and operations cannot be performed in the best conditions. In this connection, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination noted at its twenty-ninth session "recent decisions of the General Assembly confirming that the mandate, identity and location of UNDRO would be maintained, and recommended that, in future, efforts should be made to avoid any imbalance between mandated activities and the availability of resources for their implementation". 2/

57. For the biennium 1988-1989, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $7,283,600 for UNDRO. Annex I to the present report shows the regular budgets for the three bienniums 1984-1985, 1986-1987 and 1988-1989, together with the evolution of appropriations and corresponding expenditures. The growth rate from 1986-1987 to 1988-1989 was minus 0.1 per cent taking into account the normal revaluation and inflation rates. Figures are also provided in annex III for extrabudgetary contributions to UNDRO during the corresponding period.

58. The appropriation from the United Nations regular budget for UNDRO is used to cover approximately two thirds of UNDRO's total requirements. Approximately 80 per cent of the appropriation is normally devoted to personnel costs. This provides for about 60 per cent of UNDRO's regular staff, the balance being funded from extrabudgetary resources. The other appropriations in the budget, such as the provision for consultants or non-recurrent resources for furniture and equipment, cover only a small part of the Office's requirements in those areas. The remaining needs have to be met from extrabudgetary funds. The provision under "emergency grants" puts funds from the regular budget at the disposal of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for immediate allocation to a disaster-stricken country for emergency relief activities.

59. In so far as extrabudgetary resources are concerned, all voluntary contributions to UNDRO are credited to one of the accounts below. It is worth mentioning, in that respect, that in-kind contributions received by UNDRO are not included in the figures.

Table 2. Trust fund for the strengthening of UNDRO a/

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1984-1985	1 729 019	1 505 412
1986-1987	2 316 462	2 188 308
1988-1989	2 348 576	1 588 740

a/ Established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974.

Table 3. Trust fund for disaster relief a/

(i) Sub-account for earmarked disaster relief assistance: b/

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1984-1985	15 993 065	14 773 093
1986-1987	15 331 671	14 804 631
1988-1989	40 710 360	36 203 067 c/

(ii) Sub-account for unearmarked disaster relief assistance:

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1984-1985	282 823	95 096
1986-1987	130 171	369 700
1988-1989	1 790 671	198 709 d/

a/ Established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971.

b/ Earmarked contributions channelled through UNDRO.

c/ Effective 1 January 1988, the UNDRO Pisa activities and accounts have been transferred from the technical co-operation trust fund to the trust fund sub-account for earmarked disaster relief assistance.

d/ Effective 1 January 1988, the interest earned on the funds of the sub-account for earmarked disaster relief assistance is credited to the sub-account for unearmarked disaster relief assistance.

Table 4. Trust fund for UNDRO technical co-operation activities a/

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1984-1985	1 617 693	1 826 368
1986-1987	9 987 984	6 024 010
1988-1989	3 835 156	2 961 326 b/

a/ Established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975.

b/ See footnote c/ to table 3.

This account includes income and expenditures for four separate entities: (i) the sub-account for disaster mitigation; (ii) the sub-account for the Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project; (iii) the sub-account for UNDRO/UNEP projects; and (iv) the sub-account for the UNDRO fellowship programme.

Table 5. Trust fund for the preparation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1988-1989	212 428	144 822

Table 6. Account for programme support (includes programme support costs for UNDRO and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction) a/

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1988-1989	1 691 919	1 012 097

a/ Established as at 1 January 1988.

Table 7. Sasakawa/UNDRO disaster prevention award endowment fund a/

Biennium	Income	Expenditure
	(In United States dollars)	
1986-1987	94 880	57 957
1988-1989	182 536	140 642

a/ Created in June 1986.

60. As can be seen above, there has been a significant increase in extrabudgetary contributions to UNDRO, in particular for earmarked disaster assistance. It is a source of satisfaction to the Office that it has been able to gain the confidence and support of an increasing number of donor countries. However, it is a matter of concern that more than one third of UNDRO staffing and associate costs (i.e. travel and communications) need to be met by voluntary contributions, which UNDRO has the responsibility to secure each year. This refers in particular to the need to have in UNDRO headquarters the necessary backstopping capacity for the Office's ever-growing activities in the field. In this respect, it is interesting to note that the opening balance for the trust fund for the strengthening of UNDRO amounted to $1,894,638 as at 1 January 1990, as compared to $1,134,802 as at 1 January 1988. Any demand for an increase in the present level of activities would, however, entail expenditure in excess of the level of the Fund.

Notes

1/ UNDP/UNDRO co-operation on evaluation, UNDP, December 1989.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), para. 223.

ANNEX I

Regular budget: comparisons of the budget appropriations and expenses for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (including the New York office) during the bienniums 1984-1985, 1986-1987 and 1988-1989, by object of expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1984-1985		1986-1987		1988-1989		Percentage of growth between 1984-1985 and 1988-1989	
	Appropriation	Expenses	Appropriation	Expenses	Appropriation	Expenses	Appropriation	Expenses
Salaries	2 861.5	2 911.5	3 882.4	4 114.3	4 402.7	4 527.2	54	55
Established posts	91.5	91.8	133.6	91.5	171.3	168.8	87	84
General temporary assistance	10.4	10.1	17.0	8.9	13.1	11.3	26	12
Consultants	18.1	-	20.8	12.0	8.2	0.1	(55)	-
Ad hoc expert groups	10.1	10.4	15.1	2.6	17.8	11.0	77	5
Overtime								
Common staff costs	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.9	9.1	9.2	(0.1)	-
Representation allowances	919.8	918.3	1 173.4	1 085.1	1 433.2	1 359.2	56	48
Other common staff costs								
Travel of staff	229.8	228.5	293.1	232.0	323.8	317.8	41	39
External printing and binding	-	-	12.3	-	-	-	-	-
General operating expenses and communications	71.8	72.0	103.6	124.7	159.9	156.2	122	116
Hospitality	1.0	0.9	2.0	0.6	2.2	2.3	120	155
Data processing equipment	-	-	35.8	17.9	22.3	16.3	100	100
Grants	953.6	943.6	720.0	357.0	720.0	720.0	(25)	(24)
Total	5 176.8	5 196.3	6 418.3	6 051.5	7 283.6	7 299.4	41	41

ANNEX II

Staffing table of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

	Regular budget 1988-1989	Extrabudgetary resources 1988-1989	Total
Professional category and above			
USG	1	-	1
ASG	-	-	-
D-2	1	-	1
D-1	3	1 b/	4
P-5	6 a/	2	8
P-4	6	1	7
P-3	3	2	5
P-2/P-1	3	-	3
Total	23	6	29
General Service category			
Principal level	3	-	3
Other levels	11	14	25
Total	14	14	28
Grand total	37	20	57

a/ Includes one non-recurrent temporary post authorized to 31 December 1989.

b/ New post established as at 1 December 1988.

ANNEX III

Trust funds of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

Statements of income, expenditure, assets and liabilities as at 31 December 1989 for the biennium 1988-1989

(In United States dollars)

	Strengthening of UNDRO	Earmarked and unearmarked disaster relief assistance a/	Disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	Programme support costs	UNDRO/Sasakawa disaster prevention award fund	Total
I. Statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 1988-1989 as at 31 December 1987							
Income							
Pledged contributions	2 095 301	37 029 730	2 128 418	212 428	-	-	41 465 877
Public donations	8 502	267 469	15 394	-	-	-	291 365
Subventions	-	2 934 272	1 081 415	-	-	-	4 015 687
Interest income	167 276	1 803 065	465 086	-	84 661	182 536	2 702 624
Miscellaneous income	77 497	466 495	144 543	-	1 607 258	-	2 296 093
Total income	2 348 576	42 501 031	3 835 156	212 428	1 691 919	182 536	50 771 646
Expenditure							
Staff and other personnel costs	1 405 017	2 298 295	1 113 516	120 841	653 125	-	5 590 794
Travel	-	182 542	301 561	7 320	39 761	28 712	559 896
Contractual services	-	1 061	63 114	-	-	8 682	72 857
Operating expenses	948	12 406 645	228 905	-	319 211	2 068	12 957 777
Acquisitions, grants	-	20 452 987	922 834	-	-	85 000	21 460 821
Administrative overhead	182 775	1 060 246	331 396	16 661	-	16 180	1 607 258
Total expenditure	1 588 740	36 401 776	2 961 326	144 822	1 012 097	140 642	42 249 403
Excess of income over expenditure	759 836	6 099 255	873 830	67 606	679 822	41 894	8 522 243
II. Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 1989							
Assets							
Cash	1 867 848	16 122 537	2 283 394	-	773 101	1 022 062	22 068 942
Accounts receivable	34 555	2 139 006	21 400	-	3 496	11 425	2 209 882
Operating funds provided to executing agencies	-	86 023	-	-	-	-	86 023
Receivable from the United Nations General Fund	10 075	136 100	-	72 794	-	45 329	264 298
Total assets	1 912 478	18 483 666	2 304 794	72 794	776 597	1 078 816	24 629 145
Liabilities							
Accounts payable	-	232 346	14 818	-	-	-	247 164
Unliquidated obligations	7 840	2 356 731	159 160	5 188	10 324	-	2 539 243
Deferred income	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	10 000
Due to the United Nations General Fund	-	-	120 436	-	86 451	-	206 887
Total liabilities	17 840	2 589 077	294 414	5 188	96 775	-	3 003 294
Fund balance							
Balance available at 1 January 1988	1 134 802	10 012 796	1 136 550	-	-	1 036 922	13 321 070
Adjustments to opening balance	-	(217 462)	-	-	-	-	(217 462)
Excess of income over expenditure	759 836	6 099 255	873 830	67 606	679 822	41 894	8 522 243
Balance available at 31 December 1989	1 894 638	15 894 589	2 010 380	67 606	679 822	1 078 816	21 625 851
Total liabilities and fund balance	1 912 478	18 483 666	2 304 794	72 794	776 597	1 078 816	24 629 145

a/ Includes the UNDRO/PISA supply depot.

ANNEX IV

Statement of UNDRO emergency relief grants for the biennium 1988-1989

Date	Country	Situation	Amount in United States dollars
29 February 1988	Djibouti	Floods	30 000
28 March 1988	Burma	Fires	25 000
24 May 1988	Rwanda	Floods	25 000
16 June 1988	China	Floods	15 000
5 August 1988	Cuba	Floods	15 000
10 August 1988	Sudan	Floods	20 000
26 August 1988	Nepal	Earthquake	20 000
5 September 1988	Bangladesh	Floods	25 000
28 September 1988	Benin	Floods	20 000
4 October 1988	Haiti	Hurricane Gilbert	25 000
13 October 1988	Jamaica	Hurricane Gilbert	25 000
25 October 1988	Nicaragua	Hurricane Joan	25 000
2 November 1988	Philippines	Hurricane Ruby	25 000
3 November 1988	Panama	Hurricane Joan	15 000
18 November 1988	China	Earthquake	15 000
30 November 1988	Thailand	Floods	25 000
16 December 1988	Armenia	Earthquake	20 000
15 February 1989	Mauritius	Cyclone Firinga	10 000
2 March 1989	Burma	Fires	20 000
29 March 1989	Yemen	Floods	20 000
30 March 1989	Guyana	Power shortage	15 000
26 April 1989	Zambia	Heavy rains	20 000
17 May 1989	Mauritania	Displaced persons	25 000
17 May 1989	United Republic of Tanzania	Floods	20 000
22 May 1989	China	Earthquake	25 000
21 June 1989	Sri Lanka	Floods	30 000

Date	Country	Situation	Amount in United States dollars
14 August 1989	China	Floods/landslides	25 000
14 August 1989	Senegal	Returnees	25 000
22 September 1989	Antigua	Hurricane Hugo	10 000
22 September 1989	Dominica	Hurricane Hugo	10 000
22 September 1989	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Hurricane Hugo	10 000
27 September 1989	Montserrat	Hurricane Hugo	10 000
27 September 1989	British Virgin Islands	Hurricane Hugo	10 000
20 October 1989	Viet Nam	Typhoons	15 000
20 November 1989	Thailand	Typhoon Gay	25 000
		Total as at 31 December 1989	720 000

ANNEX V

The response of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to specific disasters

Algeria - Earthquake

1. On 29 October 1989, an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale shook the northern provinces of Algeria, causing more than 30 deaths and injuring 700 persons. UNDRO immediately organized the air lifting of 80 metric tons of relief supplies from the Pisa depot, valued at $500,000, which were distributed among 2,000 homeless families. At UNDRO's request, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries fund at Vienna made $46,000 available to finance the charter of one of the aircraft; the other was paid for by the Government of Italy (which also contributed the $400,000 worth of relief supplies). At the same time, the Government of Italy requested UNDRO to organize another airlift from Pisa of 200 heavy duty tents, 10,000 blankets, plastic sheets, family kits, kitchen sets and jerricans.

2. On 17 November, UNDRO received a request from the Office of the United States Foreign Disaster Assistance to locate, procure and arrange the air transport to Algiers of 180 winter tents and 5,500 blankets. The operation called for the utmost speed as aftershocks had forced more people to leave their homes. At least 12,000 people were expected to spend the winter in tents - within hours the relief supplies had been purchased. At UNDRO's request the Belgian Air Force assisted in flying the emergency supplies to Algeria. On 18 November the cargo was already distributed to the affected population. The value of the United States-Belgian-UNDRO emergency operation amounted to $95,000.

Angola - Displaced persons

3. At the request of the Government of Angola, UNDRO sent two relief co-ordination officers at the end of August 1989 to undertake an assessment of the priority needs of the population considered most at risk: those displaced by conflict and those in deteriorating health. The mission, undertaken in co-operation with United Nations agencies, relief organizations, donors and relevant government authorities, placed its findings in the context of the overall emergency requirements identified by the Government.

4. An UNDRO representative attended the conference on emergency assistance to Angola for 1989-1990 held at Luanda on 22 September. The purpose of the conference was to alert the international community to the country's needs, as a result of the complex emergency affecting more than two million people. The same day, UNDRO launched an international appeal for Angola.

Bangladesh - Floods

5. Unusually heavy rainfall between 20 and 28 August 1988 led to peak flood levels of the Brahmapura, Ganges and Meghna rivers in early September. By mid-September flood waters covered 53 districts out of a total of 64; 45 million people out of a population of 110 million were directly affected and enormous damage affected crops, transport and communication systems.

6. The Government requested relief assistance from the United Nations, and UNDRO's first appeal to the international community was launched on 1 September 1988. In view of the complexity and magnitude of the emergency, the Secretary-General appointed the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as his Special Representative for Bangladesh. In that capacity the Co-ordinator led an inter-agency mission to Bangladesh, which assessed the damage and identified priority relief needs. The assessment covered various sectors and was communicated to donors in a summarized form through the UNDRO information network.

7. The response of the international community was fast and generous. Donations from 30 countries, governmental and non-governmental agencies reached over $100 million within six weeks after the launching of the appeal. The local co-ordination of the assistance was ensured by the Government in co-operation with the Inter-Agency Disaster Group, a standing body composed, among others, of the local representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, FAO and WHO, and chaired by the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative.

8. Bangladesh's flood emergency and the possibilities of finding solutions to it were included as a special item of the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly. In its resolution 43/9 of 18 October 1988, the General Assembly expressed its concern about the devastating consequences of the 1988 floods, and appealed to Member States and international organizations to strengthen the disaster mitigation capacity of Bangladesh. It also requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. The report was prepared by UNDRO and submitted to the Assembly at that session (A/44/434).

9. International assistance to Bangladesh's rehabilitation programme was the subject of a special meeting convened by the Secretary-General on 16 November 1988 in New York and attended by President Ershad of Bangladesh. The value of Bangladesh's reconstruction needs had been assessed by a joint government/United Nations Task Force at over 1 billion dollars. During a press conference after the meeting the UNDRO Co-ordinator pointed out that prior to the meeting about 200 million dollars of international assistance had been made available or pledged; afterwards about 500 million had become available.

10. Apart from the reconstruction needs, the special meeting discussed concerted efforts in the field of disaster mitigation. UNDP had financed a study by an international expert team on flood policy to Bangladesh. UNDRO participated in that effort with funds and a staff member for the disaster preparedness component of the study.

Caribbean - Hurricane Gilbert

11. The hurricane struck Jamaica on Monday, 12 September 1988, with winds of up to 125 mph. The hurricane moved across Jamaica from east to west tearing off roofs and destroying crops, vegetation and infrastructure. At least 500,000 were left homeless and damage was estimated at over $800 million. Other Caribbean islands, notably Saint Lucia, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico, suffered equally from damage to infrastructure and plantations.

12. UNDRO was informed about the impending threat to the region by the Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project. An alert was issued to the international community on 12 September 1988 and was followed on the same day by a first report containing a preliminary assessment of damage. UNDRO dispatched the Manager of the Pan-Caribbean Project from Antigua to Jamaica to assist the authorities and the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative in the co-ordination of relief efforts. He was joined shortly afterwards by another UNDRO official.

13. Between 12 September and 11 October 1988, UNDRO issued 15 reports outlining the situation in the disaster areas, the flow of international aid and outstanding relief needs.

Caribbean - Hurricane Hugo

14. Between 15 and 21 September 1989, Hurricane Hugo struck the Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, with winds in excess of 150 mph, causing severe damage and making thousands homeless. Telecommunications, public utilities and housing were severely affected. Direct losses to the island States and territories of Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis were estimated at $365 million.

15. UNDRO entrusted the Manager of its Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project with monitoring the situation and activating the various regional and national response systems. In fact, overall co-ordination of the disaster relief operation was provided by the Project in close co-operation with UNDP, PAHO and local authorities. Through its direct links with the Caribbean Community Disaster Relief Unit, UNDRO was able to secure the requests from and pledges for the stricken countries in good time.

16. UNDRO issued situation reports on damage and relief needs and, together with UNDP, provided emergency grants for the purchase of relief materials totalling $200,000. Contributions reported to UNDRO exceeded $11 million.

China - Emergencies

17. Floods, typhoons, hailstorms and earthquakes ravaged several provinces in the years of 1988 and 1989. UNDRO was involved in 12 major events in which more than 100 million people were affected and over 4,000 lives lost: floods in Fujiang province - May 1988; floods in Zhejiang province - August 1988; hailstorm/rainstorm in Heilongjiang province - August 1988; typoon in Zhejiang province - August 1988;

floods in Shanxi province - August 1988; earthquakes in Yunnan province - November 1988; earthquakes in Sichuan province - April 1989; hailstorm in Sichuan province - April 1989; typhoon in Guangdong province - June 1989; floods/landslides in Sichuan province - July 1989; Typhoon Vera in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces - September 1989; and earthquakes in Shanxi province - October 1989.

18. The UNDP/UNDRO Representative, in close co-operation with government authorities, transmitted detailed reports and UNDRO issued a total of 17 information reports in 1988 and 15 information/situation reports in 1989.

19. UNDRO cash grants of $30,000 in 1988 and $50,000 in 1989 had been promptly provided to bridge the gap until the arrival of other assistance. These, together with UNDP cash grants, were used to meet immediate requirements by purchasing locally available relief supplies. The Governments of Australia, Canada and the Netherlands participated in the effort by channelling their contributions through UNDRO and UNDP. The overall total of contributions reported to UNDRO amounted to $3.2 million in 1988 and $4.9 million in 1989.

Djibouti - Floods

20. On 6 April 1989, exceptionally heavy rain, exceeding 500 mm in three days, caused severe flooding in Djibouti, affecting some 200,000 people and rendering some 150,000 homeless.

21. On 10 April, at the request of the Government, UNDRO launched an appeal for international assistance, indicating the relief and medical supplies urgently needed. Many countries responded immediately and dispatched relief materials, food, medical supplies and health equipment. Some Governments also provided specialized personnel for relief operations.

22. On 25 April, new rains again flooded Djibouti. An UNDRO-chartered Boeing 707 airlifted 40 motor-pumps, 12 km of flexible pipes, 150 family kits and 2,000 kg of high-protein biscuits. This operation was made possible by a $500,000 grant from Italy.

23. The stagnant water provided an ideal breeding-ground for mosquitoes and brought with it the danger of an outbreak of malaria. At the request of the Government of Djibouti, UNDRO chartered a light aircraft to carry out an anti-malaria spraying operation throughout the country. The operation was co-sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the OPEC fund and UNDP and carried out in collaboration with WHO.

24. Recognizing the importance of disaster mitigation, UNDRO implemented a technical assistance project financed by UNDP. The project included the services of an international expert and the provision of equipment to national services responsible for disaster management.

Ethiopia - Drought

25. In the second half of 1987, when drought threatened Ethiopia once again after the famine of 1984/85, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Emergency Operations and the local United Nations Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Group (consisting of UNICEF, UNDP, UNDRO, UNHCR, WFP, FAO and WHO) collaborated with the Government in issuing unified appeals to the international donor community, and commissioned logistics studies for getting emergency food and other required relief to the most affected areas in time. In view of past difficulties with moving large quantities of food by surface into inaccessible Tigre and Eritrea regions, and in view of its previous air transport experience in Ethiopia, the Office was asked to undertake what evolved into the largest concerted relief programme co-ordinated by UNDRO.

26. From early December 1987 and throughout 1988, an air transport operation, which at various times employed some 40 aircraft, was conceived and managed by UNDRO. In co-operation with the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the EEC/Joint Relief Partnership, ICRC and the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Poland, Switzerland and the Soviet Union, a total of 115,000 tons of emergency food and other relief goods were moved to 11 airfields and 15 airstrips to assist almost 20 governmental services, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

27. In response to UNDRO's various appeals, 15 donor Governments and organizations contributed $14.2 million, which were spent on three major components: commercial aircraft chartered by UNDRO; military aircraft provided under special funding arrangements with the Governments of Belgium and Canada; and various light aircraft or helicopters utilized on a cost-sharing basis to reach secondary distribution points. In the certified statement of account submitted to all donors in early 1989, the Co-ordinator was in a position to point out that, thanks to those various arrangements, the average cost per metric ton transported by the United Nations had amounted to only $220, and that the operation had contributed significantly to averting the recurrence of famine in Ethiopia.

28. In related activities, UNDRO also organized a series of airlifts from the Pisa supply depot between 2 and 17 June 1988. Five Boeing 707 jet freighters airlifted plastic sheeting, blankets, tents and cooking utensils to Asmara, while a further three aircraft carried similar relief supplies on behalf of the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance directly to Addis Ababa. Furthermore, UNDRO is at present engaged in the construction of an aircraft maintenance hangar for Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. Funded by the Government of Italy, the hangar will facilitate the repair and maintenance of all aircraft engaged in humanitarian air transport operations.

Lebanon - Civil strife

29. In 1988, military activities throughout the country and the resulting economic crisis required UNDRO's continued emergency assistance to the Lebanese population, especially to vulnerable groups. Some $116 million were mobilized, of which

$6.8 million were channelled through UNDRO. The aid was used for over 50 projects in the health, education and social sectors, for the repair of shelters and water supply systems and to assist orphans and displaced persons. These activities, from which more than one million people in all regions of Lebanon benefited, were implemented by 44 non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

30. In early 1989, UNDRO supervised 21 projects valued at over $3 million. Following military clashes in mid-March, several projects had to be suspended and some cancelled. Funds were redirected to new projects of higher priority, such as emergency repairs to the water and electricity supply systems of Greater Beirut, and procurement and distribution of drugs for the chronically ill all over Lebanon.

31. As a response to the increasing number of people in need, the Secretary-General appealed through UNDRO on 21 April 1989 for emergency relief aid to Lebanon. By the end of 1989, the assistance in cash, material and services reported to UNDRO exceeded $100 million, of which $2 million was given through UNDRO.

32. During the entire 1988-1989 period, UNDRO kept its Beirut office open and operating with appropriate support staff. In addition, various UNDRO missions were sent to Lebanon to follow the evolution of conditions in the capital and outside.

Mauritania - Returnees

33. Following communal disturbances in Mauritania and Senegal in late April 1989 tens of thousands of people on either side of the border returned to their country of origin.

34. In Mauritania, some 20,000 were accommodated in reception centres while awaiting reintegration and UNDRO launched an appeal for $500,000 to cover emergency needs. Two delegates (made available by the Government of Switzerland) went on short-term missions to assist the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative in the computerization of data on needs and contributions and in logistics. A third UNDRO delegate was sent for two months to be part of an *ad hoc* emergency committee, composed of representatives of the Government, the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the United Nations system, whose task is to co-ordinate relief assistance for the returnees.

35. The European Community transferred to UNDRO $420,000 for local purchases of relief supplies and for their transport to these sites.

Mozambique - Drought and destabilization

36. During the 1988-1989 period, UNDRO continued to assist the Government and the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in mobilizing international assistance to meet requirements for dissemination of information on the status of relief operations and in recording donors' contributions. The value of the 1988-1989 requirements totalled $340 million, of which $270 million was pledged against requirements. The figures for the period 1989-1990 are $380 million for requirements and $280 million in pledges.

37. UNDRO participated in the work of United Nations inter-agency missions (for the assessment of needs and the preparation of yearly emergency appeals) and in the subsequent international conferences in Maputo (26-27 April 1988) and in New York (14 April 1989). Every month situation reports were issued with an update on the emergency situation, relief activities, the level of contributions and ways to channel them, as well as outstanding requirements. A list of non-governmental organizations active in Mozambique was issued in 1988 and 1989.

38. An UNDRO expert installed computer equipment in the Office of the National Commission for the Emergency and trained governmental staff on its use throughout 1988. With funds donated by the Government of Italy, UNDRO financed and supervised the rerouting along the Beira corridor of some 120 km of the electricity line Beira-Chigodora (Mavuzi), which supplied electricity to the port and town of Beira. Work on the $4.8 million project was completed on schedule in February 1989. Following the receipt of an Australian contribution, it was possible to complete the water connections of the new rural hospital at Nhamatanda, in the Beira corridor, which had been rehabilitated with UNDRO financial assistance.

39. The UNDRO warehouse at Pisa played an increasing role in the provision of relief/survival items to the victims of the emergency and to displaced persons. Several shipments of shelter materials, blankets and in 1989 generators reached Mozambique from Pisa. A contribution of $230,000 from the Government of Sweden enabled UNDRO to start a stockpile warehouse rehabilitation project in Maputo. In order to transfer the technical know-how of an operational stockpile warehouse, the Government of Switzerland seconded to UNDRO a warehouse management expert.

40. In response to the UNDRO request to cover emergency relief and survival needs of most needy displaced people who had not been assisted, the European Community provided funds amounting to $630,000 for the procurement and transport of relief and survival items. UNDRO arranged the transport of the items to various distribution points by surface and air. In all, some 160,000 persons benefited from the activity.

Nicaragua - Hurricane

41. Hurricane Joan hit Nicaragua in October 1988. Early warnings had led to the evacuation of some 300,000 people. At the request of the Government, UNDRO launched an appeal for quantified needs with indication of priorities. An UNDRO delegate was sent to assist the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representatives in field assessment and in the preparation of data for presentation to the international donor community.

42. UNDRO issued 13 reports (between October and December 1988) on this emergency. The value of relief contributions reported to the Office amounted to approximately $32 million. Two Governments (Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) transferred cash contributions to UNDRO in response to the appeal. These contributions were used to buy zinc sheets and motor saws locally. An UNDRO emergency grant of $25,000 was used on a cost-sharing basis with UNDP to provide household utensils and medical equipment.

43. The very first days of the emergency proved the useful role that amateur radio operators can play in the collection of preliminary data on an emergency.

Romania - Civil strife

44. On 22 December 1989, the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator sent a message to the Front of the Council for National Salvation offering assistance within the framework of UNDRO's mandate. The Secretary-General was following developments in Romania closely and was being kept informed by UNDRO of the steps being taken to identify and assess specific relief needs.

45. Soon relief assistance began pouring in from all quarters - a spontaneous expression of international solidarity. This largely unco-ordinated and massive arrival of medicines, equipment, relief teams, clothing and other products created logistical problems. On 28 December, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs accepted the UNDRO offer of assistance and a relief co-ordination officer left for Bucharest.

46. The UNDRO officer met with the new leaders of the country and assisted in the co-ordination of the international emergency assistance. Several meetings were also held with Romanian authorities, heads of diplomatic missions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations operating in Romania.

47. He established close working relations with the first Romanian co-ordinating body and assisted in the setting up of the National Committee for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Aid. The Committee and UNDRO co-ordinated in particular the mobilization of the Romanian trucking fleet and refrigerated trains to collect relief supplies from all European donation points. The UNDRO officer returned to Geneva on 9 January 1990 for a meeting with relief agencies and the media, where unmet requirements were discussed.

48. At the request of the Government, he returned to Romania between 16 and 24 January 1990 and worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Committee for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Aid on questions concerning distribution, monitoring and utilization of funds generated by the commercial sale of relief food supplies.

49. On 8 February 1990, UNDRO held an information meeting on Romania at Geneva. The Government of Romania was represented by the Secretary of the Central Committee for the Co-ordination of International Assistance. Contributions reported to UNDRO (including those reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross) amounted to $241 million, excluding donations in kind, for which no monetary value was given.

Senegal - Returnees

50. Owing to communal disturbances in Mauritania and Senegal in late April 1989, tens of thousands of people on either side of the border returned to their respective countries. Following the request by the President of Senegal to the Secretary-General for the international community to provide relief and

rehabilitation assistance for 75,000 returnees, two UNDRO delegates went to Senegal in June.

51. With contributions from the Governments of Austria and Canada and the NGO Church World Service, UNDRO implemented a five-month emergency programme for the returnees in the Saint Louis northern province (River Valley). The project included the repair of relief trucks and the purchase and distribution of food supplies. These activities were carried out in close co-operation with the Senegalese Food Security Authority and the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Sudan - Floods

52. On 6 August 1988, UNDRO issued an appeal on behalf of the two million people in and around Khartoum made homeless by floods. The Office dispatched two relief co-ordination officers to the capital to help assess needs, monitor contributions and assist the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator. On 26 August, UNDRO held an information meeting to report to United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the latest situation in the country. By 30 August 1988, contributions in cash and kind reported directly to UNDRO amounted to over $18.5 million, excluding supplies for which no monetary value was indicated.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Earthquake in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia

53. On 7 December 1988, an earthquake of 6.9 on the Richter scale hit an area of more than 7,000 km^2 with a population of about 700,000 people in the northern part of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia. Some 24,593 lives were lost and more than 8,000 persons were partially or fully disabled. According to government estimates, about half a million people were left homeless. Economic damage caused by the earthquake is estimated at between 13 and 20 billion roubles (between $21 and $33 billion at the United Nations official exchange rate).

54. The Soviet Government accepted international aid and permitted access to the disaster areas. UNDRO assisted in the mobilization and co-ordination of international relief. From 8 December 1988 to the end of January 1989, UNDRO issued 14 reports, describing the situation on-site and the flow of aid, and alerting the international community to emergency requirements as they arose. Total foreign relief aid from 74 countries was the highest reported to UNDRO for a single natural disaster.

55. Two UNDRO delegates were among the first to arrive from abroad at the disaster site. They assisted Soviet and Armenian authorities in the organization of relief and liaised closely with foreign search and rescue and relief personnel. Two UNDRO chartered planes brought tents and blankets from its depot at Pisa to the victims.

56. On 12 December 1988, at the peak of the emergency phase, an information meeting was convened by UNDRO at Geneva with the participation of representatives from the Soviet Government, United Nations agencies, donor Governments and non-governmental and relief organizations.

57. A three-member UNDRO evaluation mission took place in January 1989. As a result the Office issued a report outlining the main features of the international aid offered to the victims and ways and means to enhance the future effectiveness of international disaster aid.

58. Lessons learned from the Armenian earthquake were also reviewed at the third meeting of national emergency relief services, held on 19 and 20 October 1989 at Geneva. The need for better co-ordination of the arrival of international relief assistance and in the fields of on-site communications and search and rescue was emphasized.

59. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the earthquake, the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator appealed to the international community to continue and to increase its assistance to the victims.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Earthquake in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Tadjikistan

60. On 23 January 1989, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale shook the Soviet Socialist Republic of Tadjikistan, situated north of the Afghan border. The epicentre was located in the village of Sharora, about 50 km south-west of Dushanbe. The quake triggered a massive mudflow, which affected an area some 8 km long and 1 km wide, with a volume of more than 10 million cubic metres. The mud barrier and deposits reached a height of 25 metres in Sharora village. Some 200 lives were lost and more than 50,000 people were homeless.

61. An UNDRO delegate from Geneva arrived in Moscow on 25 January and proceeded to Dushanbe to assess damage and to establish, together with the authorities of the Republic, a list of urgently needed relief items.

62. UNDRO's supply depot at Pisa had been depleted owing to the massive assistance provided for Armenia. However, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland offered to finance the purchase of the bulk of the relief supplies and the cost of transport called for by UNDRO to assist the affected population. The British contribution of $484,000 enabled UNDRO to purchase 200 insulated winter tents for 14 persons each, 500 diesel heaters, 10,000 blankets and 10,000 pairs of rubber boots for adults and children. The supplies were airlifted from Frankfurt to Tashkent by two Boeing 707 aircraft. UNDRO supervised the operation and monitored the setting up of shelters.

63. Following this event, UNDRO and the Soviet Union organized a training seminar on the management of mudflows and landslides caused by earthquakes. The seminar took place in Moscow from 23 October to 3 November 1989.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen - Floods

64. Heavy rains, which started on 19 March 1989 and lasted for more than one week, caused severe floods in central and eastern regions (Hadramawt, Shabwa and Mahra). Some 25 dead, 80,000 homeless, 260,000 affected and crop losses alone reaching

$5.8 million were reported. The level of damage was comparable to the 1982 flood disaster, which was considered the worst in many years.

65. UNDRO efforts helped to secure contributions amounting to $2.8 million from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, other non-governmental organizations, private firms and individuals and United Nations agencies. In addition, UNDRO was instrumental in arranging financial assistance of more than $500,000 from four donors in order to meet the emergency needs of the affected people.

ANNEX VI

UNDRO projects for disaster mitigation at the national level

Algeria

1. Following the destructive earthquake in October 1989, a mission was undertaken within the context of the Mediterranean seismic risk reduction project to examine the damage and organize a workshop on the evaluation of the event and the application of the results to the improvement of disaster preparedness and awareness. The workshop will be funded through the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Bangladesh

2. After the disastrous floods of 1988 and as a follow-up to the proposed short-, medium- and long-term flood prevention projects, UNDRO fielded a consultant at the request of UNDP to elaborate a comprehensive programme in disaster preparedness, which included activities to be implemented over a period of five years. The project document was subsequently expanded and prepared in UNDP format by a second consultant.

Colombia

3. A broad-spectrum disaster mitigation programme was initiated in 1988 and has included an integrated sequence of pilot activities in different high-risk locations, one each for earthquakes, eruptions, floods, landslides, technological hazards and tsunamis. The programme is managed by the National Disaster Office and activities are designed to stimulate the fullest possible participation of local technical and administrative services. The main emphasis was put on hazard evaluation and mapping, design of monitoring and alert systems, study of vulnerability of buildings, industrial plans and public utilities, revision of emergency plans and training activities. UNDRO assisted national authorities in coping with an eruption of Galeras Volcano.

Djibouti

4. Following the difficulties experienced during severe floods in early 1989, a two-week consultancy mission was organized by UNDRO to update the disaster management plan and review the additional human resources, equipment and co-ordination mechanisms needed to facilitate its effective implementation in future.

Egypt

5. The implementation continued of a project for the strengthening of government disaster preparedness and management services. Four consultancy missions were organized for technical assistance to the Academy of Scientific Research and

Technology in the monitoring of ground-water pollution, desertification and preparation of composite earthquake risk zoning maps. An UNDRO project officer participated in a session of the project steering committee.

Haiti

6. A new initiative was launched in 1989 to assist the National Predisaster Planning and Relief Office to develop its capacity in disaster preparedness. A four-week consultancy mission was undertaken to identify technical assistance needs in disaster management and relief co-ordination. Detailed cyclone preparedness plans will be made for two of the most vulnerable regions. A project document is being prepared in collaboration with UNDP and activities are planned to start during 1990.

Indonesia

7. The first phase was completed of a project for the strengthening of national integrated disaster management capabilities in Indonesia. The project focused on the identification of immediate and longer-term objectives and activities for disaster management. They are risk evaluation and disaster mitigation, operational disaster response development and integrated disaster management planning. Another important aspect was awareness raising for policy-makers, planners and affected population groups, including cross-sectoral training. In response to a government request, a new work programme and project document for the continuation of the activities is being prepared.

Madagascar

8. The project aimed at strengthening the national disaster preparedness organization's capacity in relation to cyclones, floods and industrial hazards continued, with emphasis on training activities. Activities in 1989 provided training for personnel of the Conseil National de Secours, including on-the-job training in the five provincial emergency centres and two national training seminars, one for 62 medium-level officials in the field of disaster management and the second held at La Réunion at the Centre of Training Studies for 22 high-level officials from Madagascar.

Maldives

9. Following serious damage from tidal waves on several occasions in 1987, the Government requested UNDRO assistance to assess future vulnerability and possible mitigation strategies. In 1987 a civil engineering consultant was provided to analyse damage suffered and repairs required. In 1988 a second consultant reviewed future risks to coastal defences and assistance needed for their improvement.

Mauritius

10. UNDRO arranged the services of a consultant for six weeks to review the Mauritius Government's state of disaster mitigation in order to develop a detailed

programme of activities to improve future response and to propose recommendations for strengthening the central administrative unit with responsibility for executing disaster mitigation programmes, including the co-ordination of all relevant agencies.

Nepal

11. As part of a UNDP/UNDRO executed project entitled "Institutional support to the disaster preparedness plan", which focuses primarily on strengthening institutional capabilities in disaster management and preparedness, a consultant carried out three three-month missions. He worked closely with the Ministry of Home and Communications and its Special Disaster Unit, which has been actively involved in drawing up the national disaster preparedness plan. Staff of the Special Disaster Unit were sent for training at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre at Bangkok and the first in-country training seminar was held. An emergency control centre is now operational and will improve communications and co-ordination mechanisms in times of crisis.

Philippines

12. A new programme of disaster management training workshops has been initiated. One national and two local workshops have been held using the technical and training resources of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre. A second project has provided practical guidance in typhoon-resistant low-cost housing, including the design and construction of demonstration houses.

Saudi Arabia

13. A project has been initiated in co-operation with UNDRO to strengthen the Civil Defence Administration. UNDRO sent a consultant for two months to review the structure and legal framework, to draw up emergency planning guidelines for central and regional authorities and to make proposals for emergency stockpiles of relief supplies.

USSR

14. UNDRO organized a three-week mission by five consultants to prepare a comprehensive disaster management and preparedness planning programme for the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia, taking into consideration in particular the risks of earthquake, floods, slope instability and industrial hazards.

Zimbabwe

15. UNDRO organized a multisectoral seminar to review the existing system and procedures for disaster management. This was followed by a three-month consultancy to produce a national plan for civil protection and to identify related training and equipment needs.

ANNEX VII

Disaster contribution summary for 1988 and 1989

A. 1988

Country	Disaster	Month occurred	Estimated number of persons affected	Multi-lateral a/	Bilateral		Non-governmental organizations and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Other	Total	Funds entrusted to UNDRO b/	UNDRO cash grants
					Governments	Inter-governmental organizations					
Disasters occurring before 1988, ongoing (contributions made in 1988)											
Ethiopia	Drought/civil strife	4.84		17 591 268	100 197 820	17 690 000	7 621 040	37 453	143 137 581	875 000	
	(air lift)	11.87		14 224 489	5 959 845	12 192 000	3 000 000	1 000	35 377 334	14 224 489	
Lebanon	Armed conflict	10.86		22 609 649	4 056 050	1 376 657	20 725 173		48 767 529	6 780 389	
Mozambique	Civil strife	1.87		52 020 320	271 706 423	27 386 275	13 233 647	54 600	364 401 265	1 314 835	
Sudan	Drought	11.83		15 312 197	16 423 084	2 328 700			34 063 981	41 667	
Disasters occurring in 1988											
Armenian SSR	Earthquake	12.88	500 000	719 076	65 304 235	12 193 385	85 755 296	12 010 944	175 982 936	699 076	20 000
Bangladesh	Floods	9.88	75 000 000	12 578 560	56 041 019	32 617 610	11 816 213	858 816	113 912 218	252 671	25 000
Bangladesh	Cyclone	11.88	2 500 000		249 870				249 870		
Benin	Floods	9.88	60 000	53 000	200 426	6 290	154 236		413 952		20 000
Brazil	Floods	2.88	19 000		2 465 066	55 012	597 281		3 117 359		
Brazil	Floods	7.88	12 000	214 000	25 400		221 370		460 770	214 000	
Burkina Faso	Floods	9.88	15 000		536 330	157 230	45 740		739 300		
Burma	Fires	2.88	20 000	87 000	229 610		20 000		336 610		25 000
Chad	Floods	8.88	47 350	1 783 900	820 878		295 160	6 350	2 906 288		
China	Floods	5.88	200 000	100 000	501 400	611 995			1 213 395		15 000
China	Earthquake	11.88	1 000 000	278 570	1 822 949	582 072	110 604		2 794 195	156 300	15 000
Costa Rica	Hurricane Joan	10.88	120 000	52 500	2 105 070	55 555	74 030		2 287 155	2 500	
Cuba	Floods	6.88	90 000	596 320					596 320		15 000
Djibouti	Drought	2.88	100 000	1 011 338					1 011 338	120 892	30 000
Haiti	Hurricane Gilbert	9.88	1 000 000	25 000	792 354	50 000	428 981		1 296 335		25 000
India	Earthquake	8.88	60 000	50 000	404 483	573 118	647 991	37 594	1 713 186		
Jamaica	Hurricane Gilbert	9.88	500 000	126 067	6 757 152	722 000	2 375 966		9 981 185		25 000
Nepal	Earthquake	8.88	60 000	1 095 327	1 952 026		729 349		3 776 702	1 089 327	20 000
Nicaragua	Hurricane Joan	10.88	350 000	360 678	21 271 386	1 198 445	8 941 172		31 771 681	165 678	25 000
Panama	Hurricane Joan	10.88	6 700	15 000	142 321		1 000		158 321		15 000
Philippines	Typhoon Ruby	10.88	1 000 000	195 869	7 965 835	582 072	865 842		9 609 618		25 000
Rwanda	Floods	5.88	8 000	540 576	984 380	244 798	132 833		1 902 587	355 576	25 000
Sudan	Displaced persons	2.88	500 000	1 093 251	726 031		1 037 825		2 857 107		
Sudan	Floods	8.88	1 000 000	7 543 860	14 562 797	4 075 055	9 358 171	332 586	35 872 469	417 418	20 000
Thailand	Floods/mudslides	11.88	978 000	100 000	911 421	119 760	656 032		1 787 213		25 000
Uganda	Displaced persons	6.88	100 000	1 432 694	1 657 701	1 588 900	110 000		4 789 295	85 398	
Total			85 246 050	151 810 509	586 773 362	116 406 929	168 954 952	13 339 343	1 037 285 095	26 795 216	370 000

(Footnotes on following page)

(Notes and footnotes to table A)

Notes:

Country: disaster-affected countries in which UNDRO was involved.

Contribution: dollar equivalent of cash and in-kind contributions given for disaster relief and reported to UNDRO.

a/ Contributions: (a) channelled through the United Nations system, and (b) made from United Nations system programmes.

b/ These figures were calculated based on pledges and using the United Nations exchange rate prevailing at the time pledges were communicated to UNDRO.

B. 1989

Country	Disaster	Month occurred	Estimated number of persons affected	Multi-lateral a/	Bilateral: Governments	Bilateral: Inter-governmental organizations	Non-governmental organizations and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Other	Total	Funds entrusted to UNDRO b/	UNDRO cash grants
Disasters occurring before 1989, ongoing (contributions made in 1989)											
Angola	Destabilization	3.88		5 235 613	6 083 731	3 763 735	35 000		15 118 079	61 496	
Lebanon	Armed conflict	10.86		14 393 857	37 424 238	37 159 604	11 334 449		100 312 148	3 798 873	
Mozambique	Civil strife	1.87		42 989 049	205 767 947	57 010 396	6 477 681	2 965 000	315 210 073	2 469 835	
Disasters occuring in 1989											
Algeria	Earthquake	10.89	n.a.	618 670	548 705		342 750		1 510 125	291 770	
Brazil	Floods	7.89	500 000		76 923		26 596		103 519		
Burma	Fires	2.89	22 300	82 000	203 905		46 374		332 279		20 000
Burundi	Floods	2.89	3 600		33 500				33 500		
Caribbean	Hurricane Hugo	9.89	n.a.	747 681	7 623 218	2 446 830	870 040	110 000	11 797 769	462 125	50 000
China	Earthquake	4.89	40 000	115 323	169 491				284 814		25 000
China	Floods/landslides	7.89	100 000 000	624 129	2 718 470	552 486	691 564	436	4 587 085	48 000	25 000
China	Earthquake Shanxi	10.89	50 000	25 000			35 000		60 000		
Djibouti	Floods	4.89	150 000	1 110 000	2 655 750		393 354		4 159 104	500 000	
Ethiopia	Meningitis	3.89	28 600	1 783 154	1 995 943	1 110 734	1 166 336		6 056 167		
Guyana	Floods	1.89	n.a.	45 000					45 000		15 000
Iran	Earthquake	5.89	16 000	10 000					10 000	10 000	
Malawi	Floods	2.89	100 000	602 100	3 222 821	113 000	803 779		4 741 700		
Mauritania	Returnees	5.89	90 000	1 078 826	1 204 885	52 000	487 813	768	2 824 292	881 666	25 000
Mauritius	Cyclone Firinga	1.89	n.a.	60 000					60 000		10 000
Myanmar	Fires	7.89	9 500	81 073	9 573			5 891	96 537		25 000
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	Floods	3.89	260 000	862 637	1 514 303	28 249	384 188	100 000	2 889 377	757 637	20 000
Philippines	Typhoons	10.89	12 000		552 801		203 108		755 909		
Romania	Emergency	12.89	n.a.		44 275 019	7 369 614	14 698 914	5 926 985	72 270 532		
Senegal	Returnees	5.89	80 000	857 940	3 013 952	1 088 775	218 800		5 179 467	118 590	25 000
Sri Lanka	Floods	6.89	300 000	428 800	1 381 393	234 375	103 181		2 147 749		30 000
Tadjikistan SSR	Earthquake	1.89	12 000	484 000				98 000	582 000	484 000	
Thailand	Typhoons	11.89	154 000	215 294	852 730		110 000		1 178 024	135 294	25 000
United Republic of Tanzania	Floods	4.89	140 000	20 000	120 100		38 500		178 600		20 000
Viet Nam	Typhoon Cecil	5.89	336 000	279 020	73 964		150 000		502 984	74 020	
Viet Nam	Typhoon Irving	7.89	n.a.	106 290	30 319				136 609	76 290	
Viet Nam	Typhoons	10.89	n.a.	153 050	1 631 815	439 560	393 916	1 761 222	4 379 563	78 050	15 000
Zambia	Heavy rains	2.89	200 000	60 000	110 166		71 465		241 631		20 000
Total			102 504 000	73 068 506	323 295 662	111 369 358	39 082 808	10 968 302	557 784 636	10 247 646	350 000

(Footnotes on following page)

(Notes and footnotes to table B)

Notes:

Country: disaster-affected countries in which UNDRO was involved.

Contributions: dollar equivalent of cash and in-kind contributions given for disaster relief and reported to UNDRO.

n.a.: Not available.

a/ Contributions: (a) channelled through the United Nations system, and (b) made from United Nations system programmes.

b/ These figures were calculated based on pledges and using the United Nations exchange rate prevailing at the time pledges were communicated to UNDRO.

ANNEX VIII

Total contributions by donor country (all disasters) for which value was reported to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (1988-1989) a/

(In United States dollars)

Country	1988	1989	Total 1988-1989
Algeria	1 000 000	6 200	1 006 200
Argentina	136 496	-	136 496
Australia	9 215 191	9 405 104	18 620 295
Austria	2 992 560	721 054	3 713 614
Bahrain	b/	250 000	250 000
Bangladesh	b/	-	b/
Barbados	7 500	b/	7 500
Belgium	2 318 518	754 450	3 072 968
Bhutan	70 043	-	70 043
Bulgaria	725 000	-	725 000
Burundi	b/	-	b/
Canada	51 460 878	20 135 581	71 596 459
Chile	20 000	5 000	25 000
China	9 748	273 526	283 274
Cuba	b/	-	b/
Cyprus	113 111	-	113 111
Czechoslovakia	2 026 881	b/	2 026 881
Democratic Yemen	b/	-	b/
Denmark	15 874 953	5 624 503	21 499 456
Dominica	-	b/	b/
Dominican Republic	b/	-	b/
Egypt	b/	b/	b/
Ethiopia	-	b/	b/
Finland	4 943 193	3 625 086	8 568 279
France	23 826 879	21 944 978	45 771 857
German Democratic Republic	26 792 960	535 790	27 328 750
Germany, Federal Republic of	47 884 803	45 494 640	93 379 443
Greece	b/	-	b/
Guyana	-	b/	b/
Holy See	100 000	-	100 000
Hungary	82 874	b/	82 874
Iceland	54 989	b/	54 989
India	100 000	499 000	599 000
Indonesia	b/	10 000	10 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	b/	-	b/

Country	1988	1989	Total 1988-1989
Iraq	b/	b/	b/
Ireland	1 411 501	253 837	1 665 338
Israel	b/	b/	b/
Italy	74 770 940	63 294 221	138 065 161
Jamaica	-	b/	b/
Japan	44 296 450	9 300 851	53 597 301
Jordan	b/	-	b/
Kenya	24 300	-	24 300
Kuwait	b/	1 000 000	1 000 000
Lebanon	-	31 670	31 670
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	230 000	b/	230 000
Luxembourg	847 101	143 000	990 101
Madagascar	b/	-	b/
Malaysia	-	15 000	15 000
Maldives	40 000	-	40 000
Mauritius	5 000	-	5 000
Mexico	100 000	-	100 000
Mongolia	b/	33 000	33 000
Morocco	b/	121 915	121 915
Netherlands	33 533 689	11 593 236	45 126 925
New Zealand	477 146	-	477 146
Nigeria	b/	-	b/
Norway	13 762 343	4 630 672	18 393 015
Oman	-	b/	b/
Pakistan	928 043	-	928 043
Philippines	-	500	500
Poland	2 600 000	b/	2 600 000
Portugal	35 100	46 519	81 619
Qatar	b/	-	b/
Republic of Korea	2 441 950	138 000	2 579 950
Romania	b/	-	b/
Saudi Arabia	500 000	b/	500 000
Singapore	150 000	-	150 000
Somalia	-	b/	b/
Spain	1 820 115	1 263 414	3 083 529
Sri Lanka	b/	-	b/
Sudan	b/	-	b/
Sweden	62 800 954	34 760 872	97 561 826
Switzerland	8 237 909	2 713 380	10 951 289
Syrian Arab Republic	b/	-	b/
Togo	235 849	238 095	473 944
Trinidad and Tobago	-	b/	b/
Tunisia	b/	6 400	6 400
Turkey	262 576	-	262 576

Country	1988	1989	Total 1988-1989
Uganda	b/	-	b/
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	34 530 634	413 000	34 943 634
United Arab Emirates	b/	b/	b/
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	46 853 858	15 341 486	62 195 344
United States of America	147 168 489	87 678 864	234 847 353
Uruguay	b/	-	b/
Venezuela	-	b/	b/
Yemen	b/	30 769	30 769
Yugoslavia	839 380	b/	839 380
Zaire	150 000	100 000	250 000
Total, Governments	668 809 904	342 433 613	1 011 243 517
Intergovernmental organizations (AGFUND, Council of Arab Ministers for Social Welfare, EEC, OAU, OPEC)	118 253 247	118 556 868	236 810 115
Grand total	787 063 151	460 990 481	1 248 053 632

a/ Contributions made bilaterally or channelled through the United Nations system.

b/ Contribution(s) reported to UNDRO without a corresponding value.

UNITED
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 12, 92, 103 and 113 of the
preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED
NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUCH
INSTRUMENTS
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE
ELECTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 9 May 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the attached extract from Country Reports on Human Rights Practices For 1989, published by the Department of State of the United States of America, which contains information on the situation concerning human rights in Democratic Yemen. I have underlined passages of special relevance.

In view of the importance of this information, I have the honour to request that the present letter and the attached extract be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 92, 103, and 113 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ephraim DOWEK
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
and Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* A/45/50.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) is one-party state governed by the avowedly Marxist Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). President Haidar Abu Bakr al-Attas came to power in January 1986, following the violent overthrow of President Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, who continues to live in exile in the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR). The current regime has purged the Government and YSP of Ali Nasir supporters. The efforts of the YSP to establish a Marxist-Leninist state along Soviet administrative lines have overwhelmed some traditional social and cultural values. An estimated 25 percent of the population has departed the PDRY, mostly to the YAR, since the country gained independence from Great Britain in 1967. In 1989 the ruling party debated political and economic reforms that would more clearly distinguish between party and state, allow a degree of economic incentives to employers and employees, modify the legal system, streamline administrative structures, and permit multiple political parties. While meeting in Aden on November 30, 1989, YSP Secretary General al-Bidh and YAR President Salih ratified a 1981 draft constitution for a unified Yemeni state. The two leaders agreed to submit the constitution to the PDRY and YAR legislative authorities for ratification within 6 months and then to the Yemeni people for approval in a referendum during the following 6 months.

The Ministry for State Security is charged with overseeing internal security operations. The army, regional militias, and the police play subsidiary roles, but in some areas tribal authority effectively supersedes government rules and regulations.

Approximately 40 percent of the 2.3 million inhabitants work as farmers, and their crops account for about 12 percent of the gross national product. The economy remains hampered by severe shortages of basic consumer items and commodities. The Government continues to regulate most sectors of the economy and makes it difficult for even PDRY citizens to import capital. Small shops and service industries remain privately owned and operated. In 1989 the Government allowed limited private ownership of dwellings for the first time in many years. The Government also expressed interest in attracting Western investment and technology, particularly in the oil and mineral resources sector.

The human rights situation overall remains grim, with many rights, such as freedom of speech, association, and the press, sharply curtailed. Other problem areas are abuse of prisoners and detainees, arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention, lack of fair trial, and inability of citizens to change their government. There appeared to be some modest improvements in 1989, continuing the trend observable over the past three years. Some PDRY citizens believe that the improvement--in particular, liberalized travel measures and a somewhat freer press--is the result of internal pressure on PDRY officials to follow the liberalizing trend in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The regime issued an amnesty for all but the top Ali Nasir supporters with the proclaimed goal of promoting

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*The United States maintains no diplomatic mission in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which severed diplomatic relations with the United States in 1969. It is difficult, therefore, to comment authoritatively on conditions in that country.

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national reconciliation.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

The Ali Nasir exile movement's YAR-based newspaper and an affiliated human rights committee charged the PDRY with the politically motivated killing of several PDRY citizens, including military officers and government officials. The movement regularly accuses the PDRY of political killings, but there is no independent confirmation of these accusations.

b. Disappearance

There were continuing reports of disappearances. As in the past, some apparently were the result of tribal and factional infighting.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Amnesty International (AI) and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) noted in their 1989 reports the deaths in custody of three persons under circumstances strongly suggesting ill-treatment had caused the deaths. The Ali Nasir exile movement and an affiliated committee frequently charge that torture is still practiced by PDRY security services. There is no independent confirmation of these charges.

d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile

Incommunicado detention and arbitrary arrests are common. A committee affiliated with the Ali Nasir exile movement identified 23 persons, including some exiles who had returned from North Yemen under a general amnesty first announced in March 1986, who were detained in 1989 without charges. There was no independent confirmation of this allegation. In its 1989 Report covering 1988, AI notes it repeatedly expressed concern about the detention without trial of suspected government opponents.

With regard to forced or compulsory labor, see Section 6.c.

e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Many persons are believed to have been imprisoned without trial. Legal procedures for the protection of the accused are routinely ignored or manipulated as in the case of the 1987 show trials of former President Ali Nasir and his followers. The Ali Nasir exile movement charged the PDRY Government with conducting a show trial in 1989 of 14 persons charged with treason before the same judges who convicted and sentenced to death other Ali Nasir supporters in 1987. A committee affiliated with the movement further charged the Government with conducting a show trial of four pilots of Yemda, the national airline. There was no independent confirmation of either allegation.

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f. Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Fami Home, or Correspondence

National security is frequently cited as the justification for the pervasive invasion of personal privacy. PDRY security services routinely inspect mail, tap telephones, and arbitrarily search residences and businesses.

Section 2 Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:

a. Freedom of Speech and Press

Freedom of speech and press is severely restricted. The state-owned electronic media and party newspaper faithfully reflect government views and priorities. In 1989 the state-controlled press reportedly allowed more extensive debate and airing of opinions on draft party and government political and economic reforms. PDRY citizens visiting the YAR have commented that the press appears to be somewhat freer than in previous years.

b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

No public or professional associations, except those sponsored by the State or party, are permitted to operate openly. Unauthorized gatherings are forbidden.

For a discussion of freedom of association as it applies to labor unions, see Section 6.a.

c. Freedom of Religion

The Constitution declares that Islam is the state religion and provides for freedom of religious expression. In practice, however, the Government attempts to minimize the influence of religious leaders, and some sermons for Friday prayer are reportedly provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. A small Christian community of Indian origin exists in Aden and is allowed to practice its religion.

d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

There are some restricted areas in the PDRY, but there were said to be fewer checkpoints on major roads and near the capital in 1989 than there were in 1988. The two Yemens implemented a new accord in 1988 which permits citizens of each country to enter the other by presenting only a national identification card. In November 1989 the PDRY revoked the requirement of obtaining prior police permission for South Yemenis wishing to travel to North Yemen. For the first time in their acrimonious relationship, the border between the two countries is basically open to all Yemenis. Many PDRY citizens have taken advantage of this accord to visit relatives and shop in the YAR. Approximately 60,000 South Yemenis have fled to the YAR since the January 1986 coup. In 1989 as many as 5,000 Ali Nasir exiles may have returned to the south under the general amnesty first announced in 1986 and reiterated several times since. However, counterbalancing this movement south across the YAR/PDRY border was the movement north of approximately 5,000 wives, children, and other relatives of Ali Nasir supporters who were in exile in the YAR.

Regulations governing travel to other countries reportedly

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have also been liberalized. The YSP Politburo approved in November 1989 the lifting of former requirements on foreign travel such as prior police permits, family letters of invitation, exit permits, and travel bonds. Whether other requirements remain is unknown.

Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

The PDRY has no democratic institutions, and ordinary citizens do not have the ability peacefully to change their leaders or the system of government. Political parties, other than the YSP, are banned, and the YSP dominates politics. Other organizations, such as the military and, to a lesser extent, the National Democratic Front (NDF), also play prominent roles. The NDF consists largely of northern Yemenis who waged a guerrilla insurgency against the YAR until 1982; now it is one of several principal factions competing for influence in Aden. Alliances are often based on tribal or regional affiliations; natives of Aden are largely unrepresented in the senior ranks of the YSP.

The Constitution provides for universal suffrage for those over the age of 18, but only candidates approved by the YSP may run for election. An election reform law, reportedly allowing candidates independent of the YSP, self-nominated candidates, and multiple candidates was enacted in 1989. A number of independent candidates competed with YSP candidates in local council elections conducted in November under the new law. The ruling party also announced its agreement in principle to permit multiple political parties and instructed the YSP Politburo to draft a new political parties law. Overall, politics in the PDRY are characterized by violence and coercion. Leading members of the losing faction can often expect imprisonment, exile, or death.

Section 4 Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

Although AI, AOHR, and other human rights groups attempt to monitor the situation in the PDRY, they are not permitted to enter the country to pursue individual cases. An AI delegation did visit the PDRY in 1987, however, to observe a Supreme Court trial, and the delegation met with several senior government ministers during their visit to discuss some of the cases being followed by AI. In its 1989 Report, AI noted that the authorities had provided some information on cases of detention without trial and denied knowledge of others, and failed to confirm three deaths in custody or to explain the circumstances in which they occurred.

Section 5 Discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Religion, Language, or Social Status

The PDRY is a generally homogeneous society and there are few ethnic or linguistic differences. Political factions are based largely on tribal and regional affiliations. Equality of the sexes is mandated by law.

The postindependence government introduced legislation to emancipate Yemeni women. One 1974 law, modeled after the divorce law of Tunisia, restricted polygamy by requiring the official permission of the court for a second marriage, prohibited child marriages, and provided for a considerable

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degree of female protection, including equal rights in divorce. Despite this law, there are still frequent cases of polygamy, child marriage, and arbitrary divorce, especially in the more traditional, rural areas.

Violence against women, including wife beating, doubtless occurs, but there is no information available on its extent.

Section 6 Worker Rights

a. The Right of Association

There are no independent trade or labor organizations. The General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), the PDRY's only labor association, is under close YSP control. The GFTU is affiliated with the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions and with the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. The PDRY has ratified Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining and the ILO's two forced labor conventions, but not Convention 87 on Freedom of Association. It has been cited by the ILO as not having complied with its obligation to supply reports on ratified conventions in recent years. No information is available on the right to strike.

b. The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively

The State, through the YSP-controlled unions, purports to represent the rights of workers. There is no collective bargaining, and there are no nongovernmental bodies which address labor grievances. A special export processing zone has been established at Maalla Wharf in the port of Aden. Few PDRY exports have been processed through this zone, however, since January 1986.

c. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor

There are no reports of forced or compulsory labor.

d. Minimum Age for Employment of Children

The labor code prohibits the employment of children (defined as between 7 and 12 years of age) and young persons (between 12 and 16 years of age). However, apprentice employment of young persons 14 years and older is permitted. Child labor is common but is more prevalent in rural areas than in cities, where children must compete with adults for scarce jobs. Child labor in rural areas is often in the context of work on family, cooperative, or state farms.

e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

There is some legislation regulating conditions of labor, but there is no mechanism for effective enforcement. Labor legislation is uniform throughout the PDRY but labor practice is not. For example, child labor is common in many rural areas, but not in Aden. Many, perhaps most, PDRY workers are farmers; the majority of these work in state-controlled collectives or associations, while the others, in more isolated rural areas, enjoy a greater degree of independence. The labor code stipulates a 42 hour workweek. Information on whether the labor code provides for a minimum wage is not available. The prevailing daily wage for unskilled labor is about $10.